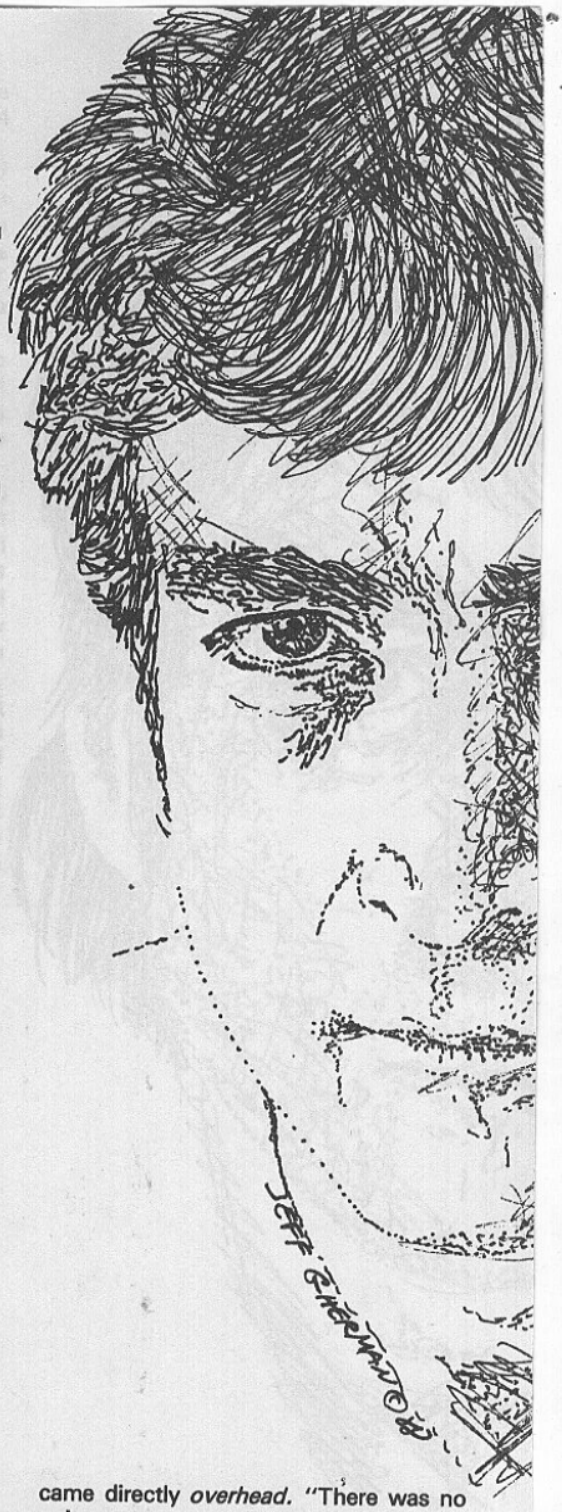
EXCLUSIVE

Ex-Girlfriend Of Famed Beatle Reveals Shocking Details Of..

JOHN LENNON'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER



by Harold Salkin

May Pang worked as John Lennon's assistant for two-and-a-half years before she moved in with the famed musician. An American-born young lady of Chinese ancestry, she lived with Lennon for a year and a half before the Beatle returned to his wife, Yoko Ono.

Today, May recalls with great fondness the happy times she spent with one of the most talented and influential artists of our modern era. May, as it turns out, is also quite artistic and talented herself. She is an actress with credits in both motion pictures and television, having appeared in the movie "Heartburn" and in the popular "Equalizer" TV series, as well as on such soaps as "Another World." You might even have seen her in the Reebok or Gitano Jeans commercials. In addition, several years ago Warner Publishing came out with her book on John Lennon, which quickly sold out, but is in the process of being re-issued by another publisher.

And while their experience happened more than 13 years ago, May still remembers the night she and Lennon had a close encounter with an eerie craft that hovered not far from where they were standing.

"Our sighting took place on August 23, 1974, at about 9 P.M. It was a Friday evening, as I recall, and I was living with John in a penthouse apartment at 434 East 52nd Street in New York City. The penthouse was on the 17th floor, the top of the 'tower,' as they called it.

"I had just ordered a pizza to be sent up. It was a very warm night, and John had gone out on the terrace. He loved the feel of the summer air coming in off the East River. We were just one building away from the river. As it happened, he was nude; he often walked on the terrace in the nude, because there were no windows facing us in other apartments on our level. Also, it was very dark out there.

"It was a really beautiful, clear night. He had just had a nap and went out to have a cigarette. I was dressing."

Suddenly John shouted: "May! Come here!!"

"I'll be out in a second," she replied.

"No, *now!*" he yelled even louder.

"As I walked onto the terrace, I said, 'What do you want?' Then my eyes caught this large, circular object floating toward us in the sky. I gulped and said, 'What's *that?* Is it a helicopter, a blimp, or *what?*'

"We both stared in fascination at this strange vehicle. It was apparently shaped like a flattened cone, of some dark metallic material. At the point on top was a large, brilliant red light, not pulsating as on our aircraft. And we could see a circle of white lights running completely around the rim at the base of the object — these were flashing on and off. There were many, many white lights.

"The craft was coming along the course of the East River, moving from north to south. It flew over the building next to ours — the apartment house fronting on the river — and John estimated its size as 'about as large as a two-man Lear Jet.' I said that it was close enough so that if Reggie Jackson hit a home run, he would probably hit it, and later, John used that phrase in telling about it.

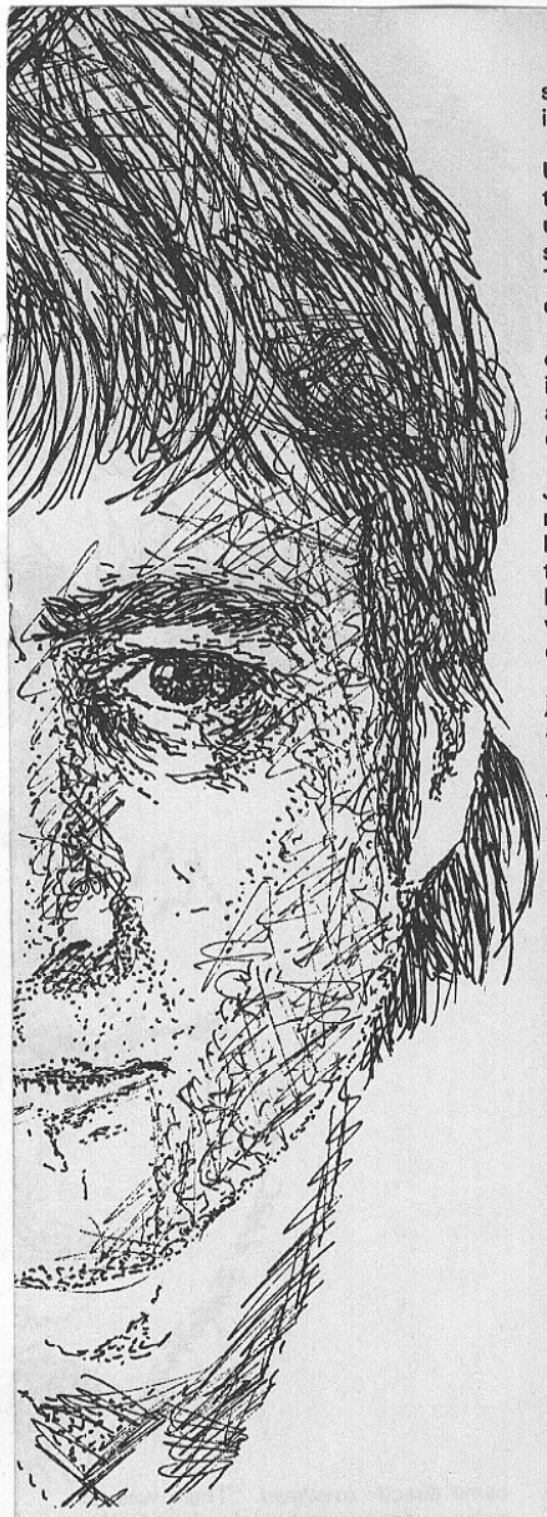
"I realized suddenly that I was even more excited than John was. I was even screaming at this totally unbelievable sight!"

Then the ship — or whatever it was — came directly *overhead.* "There was no noise — not a sound coming from it. We often had helicopters fly over us, and of course they were quite noisy. In fact, further down the river I could see a helicopter at that moment.

"When it went past our building, it turned slightly, moving southward, and curved in its course so that it flew very close to the 40-story U.N. Plaza Building on 44th St. and First Avenue. That is the building where many of the United Nations delegates live. It went beyond the tall structure, disappearing from our sight."

At that point May said, "I guess it's gone."

But no — it came out again, rose higher in the sky, and moved down along the



river to the West Side Towers building — a high-rise at 24th St. "As it hovered there for a few minutes, John focused his telescope on it. Besides the red light and the many white lights, no other details could be seen — no portholes or any other configurations.

"I took out my camera, which had special infra-red surveillance film, and snapped a few pictures. Unfortunately, after developing the film, the effect was as if the film had been over-exposed. It was strange.

"The object started to move across the river, in the direction of Brooklyn. I grabbed the phone and dialed some friends in Brooklyn.

"'You won't believe what we've just seen!' I cried out. 'Look up in the sky, just in case!' They looked, but couldn't see it."

While May was holding the phone, the UFO began picking up speed in the distance. "It gained altitude, going straight up, faster and faster, till — in a very few seconds — it disappeared from our sight. The total time it was in view, we estimated, was about 8 or 9 minutes."

May kept saying to John — over and over — "I can't believe it! I can't believe it! Of course, neither of us had ever had a sighting like this one, so we were both elated.

"As we began to calm down somewhat, John told me what had gone through his mind at the outset of the sighting. When he first spotted the flashing lights, he thought: 'It must be a neon sign!' But then he realized it couldn't be, because there were no lighted signs in the area. And of course, he soon saw it was moving."

As Lennon turned fully toward the object, it dawned on him that this was really a UFO — he immediately *knew* it was a UFO. "John was an avid reader of all subjects, including the esoteric. He was a firm believer that UFOs *did* exist — he had for years been eager to see one. In fact the subject completely fascinated him! John was much more of a believer than *I* was.

"He had been a regular reader of the magazine, *Flying Saucer Review,* as well as other UFO magazines which he picked up on the newsstands. I later kept a number of copies — in going through some things the other day, I came across them.

"In relating the event later on, it was important that I had been a witness to it, because everyone knew of my reputation as a non-drinker and one who did not take drugs; it made me a very solid witness."

After the sighting, a friend of theirs called the *Daily News.* "They were told that seven people had phoned in reports of sighting strange things in the sky, similar to our description. One was at 86th Street, north of us.

"We called the Police Department; two people had reported sightings in Manhattan."

What did they think it was that they saw!

"No one could tell me it's a secret weapon — either ours or the Russians' — I'm convinced of that! My reasoning is this: if the space people — or whoever is on board the craft — are so advanced that they can cross the vast expanses of space, they could certainly override any electronic equipment we have, such as radar. I feel that there *are* other life forms, elsewhere in the universe. Some people want concrete evidence — but I point out that they believe in such things as the planet Pluto — and where is the "concrete evidence" for that?

"John told me he would *like* to be taken up on a UFO. Probably he was thinking, as he watched the craft that night, 'Come down — I want to be taken up!' I'm sure he would have gone up with them if they had allowed it.

"I think they are as curious about us as we are about them. I believe they are far more advanced than we are. We are just learning how to navigate our tiny ships to Saturn or Neptune, but no humans are on board.

"People from all different countries around the world have seen UFOs. I *know* they exist out there."

Was John a student of the Bible or of philosophies of life, esoteric subjects, etc.?

John was into *all* philosophies — Eastern as well as Western. He taught me I Ching. He used it a lot, and found it amazing. He would ask it about decisions he had to make. He was in general an optimist as far as the future of the world was concerned."

On the sleeve of the album *Walls and Bridges,* he wrote; "I saw a UFO, on August 23, 1974, at 9:00 o'clock." He signed it, "J.L."

During the summer of 1986 — May saw another UFO. "I was driving with a friend in Manhattan — on 8th Avenue in the 40's. It was at night, and I saw something in the distance. As we got closer, I saw this thing hovering. We pulled over near the Tavern on the Green restaurant. Another car pulled alongside, and I asked the people in it what they thought it was. 'A blimp!' they said. 'An advertising blimp.' We all got out of our cars. I said, 'Do you really think that is a blimb — where are the signs?' They looked confused, jumped back in their car and sped away.

"Finally, after a few minutes, the UFO picked up speed, and flew straight up into the sky till it was gone. There was no sound whatsoever. My friend agreed with me — it was indeed a UFO. It was in the shape of a flat-iron, with many white lights outlining the shape. No solid structure was visible, however."

Nowadays, May says she is more conscious of UFOs than ever before. "Every so often, when I'm outdoors I look up into the sky. I *feel* there is something up there — and I'm not at all afraid of it. I'm more curious than anything else."

In recent months, May has begun to speak more freely about her experience. Last summer she even spoke at a UFO Conference as well as agreeing to appear along with UFO UNIVERSE editor Tim Beckley on NBC radio's Alan Colmes Show.

May feels certain that the government knows more about UFOs than they are willing to admit, and that if they ever got ahold of an alien being they would probably "try to give it the same kind of examination that those who claim to have been abducted say they have been given by the occupants of UFOs."

From her first-hand encounter with John Lennon, May Pang knows these objects do exist, and that "the time will soon come when the authorities must tell the public, 'There *are* such things!'" Like a lot of people, May agrees "the government has tried to suppress it long enough!" □